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| AMENDMENT | Application # | 09/068,592 | RECEIVED JUN 25 2003 GROUP 1700 |
| | Confirmation # | 2471 | |
| | Filing Date | 14 May 1998 | |
| | First Inventor | MORITA et al. | |
| | Art Unit | 1745 | |
| | Examiner | Dove | |
| | Docket # | P05934US0/BAS | |

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated January 21, 2003, Applicants submit the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of all claims is provided herewith in **Attachment A**. It will be noted that claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 23, 27, 38, 39, 41 and 43 are currently amended.

New claim 47 is added and claims 44 and 46 have been canceled herein.

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12, 23, 27, 38, 39 and 41-43 and 47 stand pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 23, 27, 38, 39, 41 and 43 and added new claim 47 and canceled claims 44 and 46. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12, 38, 39 and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In particular, claim 1 was rejected for the phrase "whose raw material is tar or pitch having 3% or less of primary QI" as being unclear in that the